Agreement on sharing of optical fibre network between BSNL and Railtel

2134. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been executed between BSNL and Rail Tel for sharing of the optical fibre network of Indian Railways by BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the revenue sharing under the agreement; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed to implement the MoU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Sir, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between BSNL and Railtel on 9th July, 2003 for sharing of Optical Fibre Network of Indian Railways.

(b) Salient features of the MoU are as follows:

* To meet each other's requirement of bandwidth/other services on mutually agreed terms and conditions.
* BSNL to provide technical know how for telecom network designing as and when required by Railtel.
* Infrastructure sharing:
    - Lease of bandwidth/dark fibre by Rail Tel on specified routes/ sections to BSNL wherever feasible.
    - BSNL to utilise Rail Tel Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Network for meeting rural telephony requirement.
    - Execution of projects for laying Optical Fibre Cable and installation of equipment for Railtel by BSNL on Railtel's request.
* Cell One coverage along railway route by utilising Railtel infrastructure.
* Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM), PCO to Rail Tel on trains by BSNL.

* Utilisation of towers' space of Railtel for Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)/ GSM requirement.

* Deployment of BSNL's technical and financial experts on deputation of Railtel as per their needs.

* Offer of last mile and interconnection by BSNL to Railtel for their various requirements.

(c) Details of the revenue share for Centralized Information Enquiry System (CIES), the call centre run by Railtel on Built Own Operate (BOO) model for Indian Railways is as given below:

* Revenue share @Rs. 0.15/minute on cumulative basis for all intra-circle calls except local calls.

* Revenue share on local calls @ Rs. 0.15 per three minutes on cumulative basis.

* Revenue share on intra-circle calls from private operators @Rs. 0.10/minute.

(d) The MoU was signed on 9th July, 2003. Implementation of the various areas of cooperation between two organizations started from the date of signing MoU. Sharing of each other's infrastructure is a continuous process. Based on the requirements of BSNL and Railtel, various terms and conditions of the MoU are being implemented by mutual agreement. Completion time of the MoU is extended upto 8.7.2007.

Development of information technology sector in Northern India

†2135. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact thai the Northern part of the counry is still lagging behind in the information technology sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the efforts of Government to develop the infrastructure are also not encouraging;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.